

NDRC Project Information Sheet

Submission Deadline; July 10, 2015, Project Information can be submitted on line at CA-NDRC@hcd.ca.gov or mailed to Tuolumne County Administrator's Office (2 South Green Street, Sonora, CA 95370)

1. Agency/Organization Project Sponsor:

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

2. Project Contact (Name, Email, Phone #):

Adam Frese; Adam.Frese@fire.ca.gov; (209) 754-2706

3. Scope of Proposed Project- Include Project Goals and Objectives, Timeline and Tasks (Please submit as an attachment, **1 page max**)

4. List all Agency/Organizations involved in Project and their Role:

Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE): Project proposal, planning, preparation of appropriate CEQA or NEPA documents on private parcels, project implementation.
Yosemite Foothills Fire Safe Council: Cooperator
SWIFT group: Cooperator
Bureau of Land Management: Cooperator. May provide NEPA documentation for areas where fuel break is located on BLM property.
U.S Forest Service: Cooperator. May provide NEPA documentation for areas where the fuel break is located on USFS property.

5. List Measure(s) of Project Accomplishments/Expected Outcomes:

An approximate 179 acre fuel break (Corcoran) and an approximate 159 acre fuel break (Rim Truck Trail West) will be constructed to form an approximate 9 mile, 338 acre fuel break along the north and west sides of the communities of Big Oak Flat, Pine Mountain Lake, and Groveland. This fuel break connects an important series of fuel breaks that will extend along the top of the Tuolumne River Canyon. The fuel break will protect residences in the Highway 120 corridor from catastrophic fires, such as the Rim Fire. Expected outcomes will be safer communities and healthy, fire resistant forests.

6. How does this Project meet the resilient recovery objectives outlined in the NDRC grant application?:

This fuel break will meet resilient recovery objectives by making our forests and communities more resistant to large, damaging fires such as the Rim Fire. This new fuel break will compliment other fuel reduction work in the area and will link a series of strategic fuel breaks together. Keeping our forests healthy and resistant to catastrophic, stand replacing fires ensures a healthy timber and tourist industry.

7. What is the target area for the project (i.e., where is it located, who are beneficiaries, etc)?:

The target area stretches approximately 9 miles from the Corcoran-Gray Road area near Big Oak Flat, north through the Crook Ranch to the Rim Truck Trail. The Rim Truck Trail parallels the top of the Tuolumne River Canyon. This series of fuel breaks would help contain large damaging fires originating from the Priest Grade area, the Deer Creek Drainage, and the Tuolumne River Canyon. Direct beneficiaries are the residents of Big Oak Flat, Groveland, and Pine Mountain Lake, whose residences will be protected by the fuel break.

8. Has this project undergone environmental review? If yes, what stage is it in?

A large portion of this project is located within the Crook Ranch Vegetation Management Plan (VMP), which is almost ready for submission. The project would consist of mastication and hand crew work. The Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit of CAL FIRE has prepared Categorical Exemptions for similar projects. A categorical exemption would likely apply to the areas not covered by previous fuel breaks.

9. NDRC Application Budget Request (please attach a detailed project budget):

See attached

10. What guarantees are in place to insure the success of implementing this project?

CAL FIRE has a proven track record of planning, implementing, and maintaining strategic fuel breaks in Tuolumne County.

11. How will this project be sustainable after implementation?

This project will be added to the Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit Fire Plan and will be maintained as part of a strategic fuel break system in the Unit. CAL FIRE works with a variety of cooperators, such as the SWIFT group and the Yosemite Foothills Fire Safe Council to obtain funds and implement fuel reduction projects.

NDRC Committee Use Only:

EVALUATION CRITERIA: ☐ Meets National Objective ☐ Eligible Activity ☐ Meets Overall Benefit Requirement
☐ Within Target Area ☐ Ties Back to Disaster ☐ Incorporates Resilience
☐ Meets Cost Benefit Analysis Objectives

WORKING GROUP: ☐ Forest ☐ Infrastructure ☐ Public Facilities/Public Services

Corcoran/ Rim Truck Trail West Scope of Work:

The proposed Corcoran Fuel Break is approximately 179 acres in size and located to the northwest of the community of Big Oak Flat. This fuel break will link the existing Tip Top fuel break with the Rim Truck Trail West fuel break. The proposed fuel break will protect communities of Big Oak Flat, Pine Mountain Lake, and Groveland from a large, damaging fire coming from the Priest Grade area.

The Rim Truck Trail West fuel break is an important fuel break that was used during the 1987 Complex and the Rim Fire. This proven fuel break will be widened and improved. The fuel break will also be lengthened to the confluence of the North Fork and Middle Fork of the Tuolumne River. The Rim Truck Trail West fuel break is approximately 159 acres in size

The proposed fuel break is primarily situated on private property. A small segment of the Rim Truck Trail West fuel break is on property owned by the Forest Service. Vegetation would best be described as oak woodland and chaparral.

Private contractors operating masticators, and CAL FIRE hand crews, will create an approximate 338 acre shaded fuel break by masticating, or cutting, piling, and burning, surface and ladder fuels in the understory of the Corcoran and Rim Truck Trail West fuel breaks. Generally, trees less than 10-inches in diameter at breast height, and brush would be removed to create a shaded fuel break condition. Residual trees will be spaced to break up the vertical and horizontal continuity of fuels.

Due to the gentle terrain, masticators are expected to be able to operate on at least 258 acres of the project. Hand crews will be used on areas unable to be treated with a masticator due to isolated steep slopes, rock outcrops, proximity to watercourses or other areas where equipment use may not be appropriate. Hand crews may be used on up to 80 acres of the proposed project area.

The timeline to complete the required environmental documentation is approximately one year which would allow for any surveys to be completed during appropriate times. This environmental work will be conducted by CAL FIRE foresters. Fuel reduction work can be completed in two seasons. A total of four years for the project would allow work to be conducted at appropriate times, and provide for contractor availability.

The result of the project will be a fuel break, approximately 9 miles long and 300 feet wide. The fuel break will consist of an open, park like forest that will help fire fighters to defend communities along the Highway 120 corridor in Tuolumne County.

Corcoran/Rim Truck Trail West

Fuel Reduction Activities:

338 acres treated at \$1,200.00 per acre: **\$405,600.00**

Approximately 258 acres to be treated with a masticator

Approximately 80 acres to be treated with a hand crew

Project Planning/Environmental Documents:

Archaeological Records Check: **\$300.00**

Environmental Documentation Filing Fee: **\$2,400.00**

Total Project Cost: \$408,300.00

